

Comment Set 34



PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 342

935 Detroit Avenue Concord, CA 94518-2501 Phone (925) 686-5880 Fax (925) 685-3710

Business Manager/Financial Secretary

JAMES WILLIAMS

Business Representative
STEPHEN MIKICH

Business Representative
MIKE HERNANDEZ

Business Representative
GEORGE KIKES

Business Representative
DAVE MANN

Refrigeration Representative
JAMIE BIRD

Valerie Van Way
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

April 13, 2006

Re: Comments on the *Draft EIR for the Chevron Richmond Long Wharf Terminal Lease Consideration*

Dear Ms. Van Way:

Late in 1999 Local 342 wrote to Mr. John Lien in your office about furthering the Bay Trail around some of Chevron/Texaco's Richmond Refinery. Just as then, the following opening paragraph is true:

"One of the fundamental ideals of Organized Labor calls for Local Unions to stand up for the people that cannot stand for themselves. It is for this very reason that I am writing to you today. Our typical and normal concerns have been the workplace conditions for working families but it is sometimes incumbent upon us to work with our governmental agencies to help ensure that the day to day affairs of the people in our community are considered and addressed."

It is with this in mind, as the elected leader of the 3186 members of Local 342, along with their family members, I'm writing to you today to make sure you understand that no matter what comments you might receive from Chevron/Texaco on this matter, there are a great many people in this community that might have differing viewpoints on the terms of the extended lease for Chevron/Texaco's Long Wharf.

The land in question is public property, belonging to all of the citizens of the State and, as such, intended to be used by the public for access and recreation. Chevron/Texaco's use of this land for commercial purposes has, in the past, precluded access or use by the public. Chevron/Texaco's position in the past (and even today) has been that the people of this community are a hindrance to their ability to conduct their business as they see fit.

If Chevron/Texaco were to have their way, the people of this community would simply go away.

PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 342

Comments on the *Draft EIR for the Chevron Richmond Long Wharf Terminal Lease Consideration*

In these times of heightened concerns for national security, Chevron/Texaco is fond of claiming that the security of the nation is dependent on preventing the public from being anywhere around their refinery. If a reasonably intelligent person were to review each of Chevron/Texaco's security concerns, they would easily see that most of these concerns are based primarily on an abuse of the country's fear of attack by terrorists. This reasonably intelligent person would also see that each of these specific concerns either does not exist in the real world or could easily be mitigated.

One of Chevron/Texaco's major concerns is that because their roads and pipelines cross from their refinery out into the San Francisco Bay, and would transect any version of the proposed Bay Trail, these roads and pipelines would be at risk of sabotage. This is simply untrue. Whether it's by use of secure fencing, covered overcrossings or any number of other methods, the Bay Trail can transect these pipelines and provide Chevron with their security while simultaneously providing Bay Trail users with an uninterrupted access to both sides of the Trail.

The Bay Trail is one of those visions that everyone in the Bay Area should feel proud of. Whether they ever even take advantage of the Trail, it's one of those wonderments that define an area. It's a gift to future generations. What other area in the world can say that they have a 400 mile public trail alongside one of the most spectacular areas in the world? Even Chevron/Texaco should take pride in being around and a part of such a benefit to their community. Considering the many television commercials from a few years back where Chevron was telling the world how much they cared about their communities, it's puzzling to think that they've taken a position that appears to be diametrically opposed to that philosophy. Considering the record breaking profits that Chevron/Texaco has seen in recent years (at the expense of everyone who uses petrochemical products—and that's everyone), you would think that they would want to demonstrate to the community that they're not the evil corporate giant so many people believe them to be.

Agency after agency has included the development of the Point San Pablo Peninsula as a part of their approved Plan's. Whether we're referring to the Richmond General Plan, the Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, ABAG's San Francisco Bay Trail Plan or the MTC's Regional Bicycle Plan, they all call for the extension of the Bay Trail from Point Richmond north to the Point San Pablo Peninsula.

Any new lease without appropriate mitigation to ensure the extension of the Bay Trail would be a misuse of the public's trust.